Class: Introduction to Biology

Unit: Ecology

Topic: Owl Pellet Experiment cont…

Instructional Objectives: Students will be able to…

1.Dissect owl pellets and classify different organism bones.

2.Graph data pertaining to organism bone count.

Time Activity

5 minutes Opening- Emphasize to students how the class period will be set up for the day. Tell students that they will have the remainder of the class period to finish dissecting their owl pellet, as well as finish their discussion and conclusion questions. Make a note of emphasis that students must complete the graphs of their different bone structures before they leave class because of the availability of the laptop cart only being limited to this class period.

40 minutes Experiment- As students are completing the experiment, I will be monitoring student progress as well as answering any questions they may have about the laboratory procedures. I will also be monitoring for student safety, making sure all students are following the safety rules and regulations that are associated with this experiment. I will be answering any questions students may have about the laboratory discussion questions or conclusion questions. When students are ready to graph their data, they will first receive permission from me to get their laptops, as well as receive permission from me before they print their graphs. As students are compiling their data, there will be a chart similar to the data chart found within the data sheet written on the chalk/white board. Students will be posting their results on the white/chalk board in order for other students to compare their individual graph results. The last five minutes of this timeframe will be devoted towards cleaning up all materials, putting away all laptop computers back into the laptop cart, as well as making sure all safety goggles are properly stored back in their appropriate places. Make sure students label their aluminum trays with their names with tape and markers. After students have labeled their trays have them covered with aluminum foil.

10 minutes Debrief/Conclude- Get student reaction from their experiences dissecting the owl pellet. Ask questions such as, “What organisms are represented the most often in your graphical findings?”, “What are common characteristics about these organisms within ecosystems?”, “How does this experiment relate to Food Chains within Ecosystems?”

Assessment: Informally assess students throughout the class period with their participation and understanding of the experiment, their compliance with all of the safety rules and regulations associated with the experiment, as well as their responses at the end of the class period to the debriefing questions. Formally asses student with the completion of their laboratory experiment packet.

Materials: Appropriate number of all handouts copied for all students, all materials needed for the laboratory experiment (see laboratory packet), laptop cart, markers/chalk.